

Birthdays should be happy events when we celebrate the continuity of life. That certainly is the case today in our family in two very different, though uniquely special ways. Owen my only grandson becomes a teenager and it is Pentecost the Churches birthday. The birthday party for Owen will be one restricted in number by the barriers set upon us by government lockdown rules. The Churches birthday this year however, will be celebrated by many faith organisations quite differently and I suggest probably even more widely than ever before.

The doors of our local churches are locked, but many people will break this barrier down by celebrating Pentecost using the computer resources available to them, reaching a much wider audience than any usual Church congregation. The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland Reverend Dr. Martin Fair leading the way on the Worldwide web and Facebook at 10am.

At Pentecost we celebrate that all barriers are stripped away, old divisions are challenged, old ways of living and dare I say it worshipping are questioned and put to the side. The reason for all of this is the impact Jesus' lifestyle made on the first disciples and how by the power of the Spirit they were equipped and enable to go out and proclaim the good news of the gospel.

In the past weeks many people have felt the strain of physical barriers being held upon us. For most people it has been felt most strongly in the way that friendships have ceased to be face to face. However, now as the r number is lowering we can see all our efforts making a positive difference. Perhaps this news will encourage us this Pentecost to continue to obey the government rules, and celebrate remembering that it is the same Spirit that filled the room of the disciples, equipping and enabling them to move forward in their own faith journey that fill's our lives too.

God Bless,

Jacqueline

Prayer for Pentecost

God of wonder and mystery we tend to associate the gift of the Spirit with the day of Pentecost. That day when you changed the thoughts and lives of the first disciples, the day known now as the birthday of the Church.

Yet as wonderful as that day was we ask that you will help us to remember that your Spirit is working within and around us now. Father, you want to transform our lives, to open the door to new horizons of work and worship, but often we close our hearts and try to tie you down to our own rules. Forgive us take away our stumbling discipleship, energise our lives and by the breath of your Spirit, give us power for our daily living. Equip us to strive to break barriers down that restrict the serving of your people, open our hearts to your presence flowing within and build us up so that we may live and work more faithfully for you.

Amen.